Professor Information

Professor: Mrs. Rebecca J. McElyea
Department of Government
Office: Liberal Arts North #112
Office Hours: W 1000-1200 F 1100-1400

Please feel free to email me @ the following address:
Email: Rebecca.McElyea@sfasu.edu

During the week, I will return emails within 24 hours and on the weekend expect a reply by/or on
the following Monday. Weekends begin at 1700 Fridays and conclude at 0600 on Mondays.

SI Leader: Dacoda Burkholder
SI Meeting Times: T/TH 1600-1700
SI Location: Lumberjack Landing Room D
Notice on Emails to Your Instructor:

Please note the following as a very important step-by-step guide for students when:

You need help / have a general question;
Always follow the following when you are emailing me:

- **First,** you need to **check the syllabus** to find out if your question has already been answered. *Any emails sent with questions that have been answered in the syllabus will be responded with an attachment of the syllabus only.*

- **Second,** you MUST include your **name** and **class for the course in which you are enrolled.** As an example, “Sally Mae Jones 2306.006”.

  Please note: By identifying yourself and the course correctly*as demonstrated above* you will get a response email from me FASTER. I will be able to **ANSWER QUESTIONS ABOUT THE CLASS YOU ARE ENROLLED IN.**

  I teach around 300 students Texas Government each semester. Each course—although titled in SFASU course catalogue as “Texas Government” are unique and differ. Therefore, I REQUIRE THIS INFORMATION TO GIVE YOU CORRECT ANSWERS IN RETURN. Please do not write by using the following as examples:

  Hi, I am in Texas govt ponline
  I am enrolled in Givernmetn.
  I’m in ahistory class you teach.
  I am enrolled in your Texas course on Tuesdays.

  Note, these examples do not help me to know what course YOU ATTEND in-class or online. *The above examples do not help me help you find information specific to you and the course section you are enrolled in!*

  **So, please, if necessary, copy and paste the following:**

  Hello,

  My name is Sally Mae-Dow Jones. I am enrolled in GOVT 2306.001*insert the last three numbers of your course here*
  I read through the syllabus, looked at the course calendar, and throughout D2L but *insert concern/comment/questions/introductions/ introductions explaining you are a member of an SFASU group or team which travels**dates included would be nice**ETC…. here.

  Thank you for your time and assistance. I look forward to hearing from you and taking this course.

  Sally Mae-Dow Jones
  123456
  smdjones@jacks.SFASUahoraUT_SYSTEMEscuela.net
Copyright and/or Plagiarism note on the above example. You all have my permission to reproduce the above email example for other courses in which you need to email your instructor and are unsure how to begin, it is a sketch email you may be able to use for your boss, an on-campus organization/team leader, volunteer organization you want / work for, or whomever—even your roommates—and yes, they will be impressed.

Please take note of the professionalism, tone, and syntax of the briefly written electronic message. You should tailor this example to your own personal needs. As a university student, I urge you to embrace every moment, example, group, book, and the time you spend physically or virtually on-campus or off-campus! SFASU allows you a myriad of potential new experiences, people, and information are provided to you. Take what professors, staff, teams, school spirit organizations groups/teams/mates provide to you in all forms throughout your career at SFASU. I challenge you to ignite every moment and experience gained while enrolled into an opportunity for improving yourself for the future professional you aspire to become through your education at SFASU.

- Finally, I will only answer emails that originate from an official SFA email account. The university requires all communication between faculty members and students take place within university sponsored email servers. Other email domain addresses may not ever ‘land’ in my inbox. Even after, your google email makes it through not just once—but maybe even twice! I have had communication cut off from students using outside domain email addresses in the past. Please use your university @jacks email and we will all be happier for it.

Required Reading:

THERE IS NO TEXTBOOK! You will read in the course module on D2L each chapter worth of information. I am in favor of OER’s (open educational resource) texts especially for introductory courses like ours. OER’s reduce the overall cost of higher education.
Course Description:
“This course introduces students to the origin and development of the Texas constitution, structure and powers of state and local government, federalism and intergovernmental relations, political participation, the election process, public policy, and the political culture of Texas.” General Bulletin, 2020-2021.

This three-credit hour face-to-face course requires approximate 150 minutes of classroom time/direct instruction as well as at least six hours of out-of-class reading and studying each week in preparation for exams and completion of writing assignments.

General Education Core Curriculum Objectives:
In any given semester, one or more of the following Core Curriculum Objectives for the political science / government Foundational Component Area may be assessed.

Core Objective 1- Critical Thinking Skills – creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of information
Core Objective 2- Communication Skills – effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication
Core Objective 3- Social Responsibility – intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to effectively engage in regional, national, and global communities
Core Objective 4- Personal Responsibility – the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making.

Program Learning Outcomes:
This course is a general education core curriculum course and no specific program learning outcomes for a political science major are addressed in this course.

Student Learning Outcomes:
By the end of the course, you should be able to
- Critically evaluate political science theories and approaches to institutional arrangements of Texas political system and to Texas public policy
- Communicate your understanding and interpretation of institutional arrangements of the Texas political system, and well as key domestic and foreign policy issues
- Understand social responsibility by examining Texas government policy choices as they effect various regional, national, and global communities
- Understand, connect, and evaluate individual choices associated with Texas state public policy options and / or theories and approaches to institutional design of the Texas political system

Purpose:
This course is the first of two required political science courses designed to be an introduction to politics. The focus of this course is the inputs into the political process, and to some extent the political process itself. Although many of you are not majoring in political science, all of you will be affected by the political process. Hopefully by the end of this course you will not only be more informed about the political process, but also more interested and involved in it.
Assessment:

Students are expected to read all content assigned as well as remain current regarding political events happening in both American and Texas politics throughout the duration of the course and should be able to comprehend and analyze both assigned text and current events.

You are expected to read the assigned material before class to participate actively and constructively in class. Your grade will depend on frequency and quality of your contribution to class discussions.

Also, it is important we keep up with contemporary events. Doing so will provide relevant examples for our in-class discussion and enhance your awareness of important issues. The following list are some of the news sources you may use: BBC News, The Economist, The Financial Times, The New York Times, The Guardian, The Texas Tribune, Houston Chronicle, Dallas Morning News, Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Austin American-Statesman, and Reuters.

Grades for Texas Government 2306 will be based on the completion of the following assignments:

There will be four exams given during the semester, which comprise 70% of your course grade. The regular exams will/can consist of T/F, multiple choice, essay questions, fill in the blank, and/or short answer questions but are not limited to these formats of questions alone. Tests will cover material from the lecture and the reading previously studied usually three or four weeks/modules worth of content. Once tested we will move forward learning new course materials in preparation for the next test and the final COMPREHENSIVE exam.

Exams will be open in D2L/Brightsplace for at minimum two days for the student to manage their time and responsibilities to get the exam taken. The exam will be 75 minutes unless otherwise noted by other university offices. Students are given a longer period of time to complete the final exam. I will announce the length of the final before you take the exam. Time limits are strictly enforced.

Whereas the exams are designed to test basic knowledge; Aesthetics assignment(s) are geared towards integrating the material in the lecture into the students written, verbal, and/or presentation abilities. There are ten aesthetics assignment opportunities in this course given throughout the semester. Students are given the CHOICE of which FIVE of these assignments they will complete. Of which more information will be given out later in coordinating weeks/modules. Each will prompt the student to inquire about Texas government and the politics within it.

Another 5% of your grade will come from your quiz grade. The quizzes are designed to help test your basic understanding of the module’s content. As such, you may take each quiz as many times as you want to help study the material. The highest grade will be recorded. Be sure to complete the reading before attempting weekly quizzes.
Assessment Weighting Information

The following are the weights given to your participation and discussions, exams, weekly assignments, and the date each assignment is due:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Grade Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exam One</td>
<td>SEPT 21-23</td>
<td>17.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam Two (Midterm)</td>
<td>OCT 12-14</td>
<td>17.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam Three</td>
<td>NOV 1-4</td>
<td>17.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam Four (Final)</td>
<td>Dec. 11-15th Finals Week</td>
<td>17.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weekly Module Quizzes</td>
<td>ALL DUE DEC. 9 @ 11:59PM</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aesthetics Assignments</td>
<td>Semester Long</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Final grades will be granted on the following scale:
A=100%-90%
B=89%-80%
C=79%-70%
D=69%-60%
F=59% and below

Late Assignment Information

A detailed description of student expectations has been provided to you above. It is the student’s responsibility to turn in and complete fully all assignments by the deadlines listed above. Because dates have been provided to you in advance no late assignments will be accepted. If you will be unable to take an exam due to a university sanctioned activity you need to provide to me this information via email prior to the activity and your absence.
Technical Support Statements

Technical Support Center

The Technical Support Center on campus provides technical support to the students, faculty, and staff of Stephen F. Austin State University. TSC provide telephone help desk support to most of the campus as well as provide free computer repair for computers belonging to students of the university. TSC hours are 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Monday through Friday during the spring and fall semesters. TSC hours are the same during Maymester and summer sessions except we close at 5:00 p.m. on Fridays. TSC can be reached at (936) 468-HELP (4357) or at tsc@sfasu.edu TSC is located at 514 East Austin, north of the main SFA campus.

Student E-mail

SFA Student e-mail is hosted by Microsoft Office 365. For help with e-mail passwords, please contact the Help Desk at (936) 468-HELP (4357). If students forget their mySFA password and have not set up their myPassword profile, they must contact the Office of the Registrar at (936) 468-2501.

University Policies and Additional Information

Academic Integrity (A-9.I)

Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

Definition of Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit.

Please read the complete policy at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp
Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy (A-54)

Ordinarly, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

Students with Disabilities

To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/.

Dead Week
Original Implementation: June 16, 1982
Last Revision: April 20, 2021
Dead week is an established tradition in higher education to allow students the necessary time to prepare for final examinations. During the last five class days of each long semester, written examinations (except to cover daily assignments) and themes or assignments beyond normal daily requirements are not to be assigned without written notification to the students prior to the twelfth-class day.

Important Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Classes Begin</td>
<td>AUG 28 2023</td>
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<tr>
<td>Labor Day</td>
<td>SEPT 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last Day to drop online/withdraw</td>
<td>NOV 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thanksgiving Holiday</td>
<td>NOV 18-26</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exams</td>
<td>DEC 11-15</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
## Objective Table

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core Objective</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>How the Core Objective Will be Addressed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Critical Thinking Skills</td>
<td>To include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of information.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication Skills</td>
<td>To include effective development, interpretation, and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Empirical and Quantitative Skills</td>
<td>To include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teamwork</td>
<td>To include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal Responsibility</td>
<td>To include the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Responsibility</td>
<td>To include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Course Calendar

Dates may change at the discretion of the instructor. Should a date change be required, it will be announced in the course news or on the discussion board. All times listed are Central Standard Time.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK</th>
<th>MODULE</th>
<th>ASSIGNMENTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Week of AUG29-SEPT 3 | Welcome Module 1: Introduction              | • Read Get Started module content, notably syllabus and Semester Calendar. (CO 4)  
• Complete Module 1(CO 4) content, chapter readings, and quiz. |
| Week of SEPT 4-11 | Module 2: Texas Constitution                | • Read Module 2 content and assigned readings. (CO 4)  
• Submit Module 2 quiz (CO 4) |
| Week of Sept. 12-17 | Module 3: Public Opinion & the Media in Texas View Dropbox assignment | • Read module 3 content and assigned PDF readings. (CO 1)  
• Submit Module 3 quiz (CO 4) |
| Week of SEPT 18-24 | Module 4: The Texas Legislature             | • Read module content and assigned readings. (CO 1 & 4)  
• Submit Module 4 quiz (CO 4) |
| SEPT 21-23       | Exam #1                                      | • Complete Exam 1 (CO 4)  
• Opens @ 0600 Sept. 21  
• Closes @ 2359 SEPT 23 |
| Week of SEPT 24-OCT 1 | Module 5: The Texas Bureaucracy            | • Read module content and assigned readings. (CO 3)  
• Submit Module 5 quiz (CO 4) |
| Week of Oct 2-9 | Module 6: Texas Governor View or review: Writing a Letter to your Representative Assignment in Dropbox | • Read module content and assigned readings. (CO 1)  
• Submit Module 6 quiz (CO 4) |
| Week of OCT 9-15 | Catch up on any remaining material          | • Exam opens 0600 OCT 12  
• Complete Exam #2 (CO 4) by 2359 on Oct 14 |
| OCT 12-14        | EXAM TWO                                    | • Exam opens 0600 OCT 12  
• Complete Exam #2 (CO 4) by 2359 on Oct 14 |
| Week of OCT 16-22 | Module 7: Texas Judiciary & Texas Justice | • Read module content; assigned module and PDF readings (CO 4)  
• Submit Module 7 quiz (CO 4) |
|-------------------|------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| Week of OCT 23-29 | Module 8: Campaigns and Elections         | • Read module content and assigned readings. (CO 3)  
• Submit Module 8 quiz (CO 4) |
| Week of OCT 30-NOV 5 | Module 9: Political Parties             | • Read module content and assigned readings. (CO 4)  
• Submit Module 9 quiz |
| NOV 2-4          | EXAM THREE                               | Exam three opens at 0600 on NOV 2  
Complete Exam #3 (CO 4) by 02359 on NOV 4 |
| Week of NOV 6-12 | Module 10: Organized Interests           | • Read module content and assigned readings. (CO 3)  
• Submit Module 10 quiz (CO 4) |
| Week of NOV 13-19 | Module 10: Organized Interests  
Module 11: Fiscal Policy | • Read module content and assigned readings. (CO 3&4)  
• Submit Module 10 and 11 quiz (CO 3 & 1) |
| Thanksgiving Holiday  
All faculty and students |                                           | • NOV 18-26 |
| Week of NOV 27-DEC 3 | Module 11: Fiscal Policy and Public Policy | • Read module content and assigned readings. (CO 3&4) |
| Week of DEC 4-10  | Dead Week  
Review for exam                        | • Submit ALL WEEKLY QUIZZES BY 2359 on DEC 9 |
| Week of DEC 11-15 | Final Exam Week Dec. 11-15              | • Complete Final Exam |

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